



Altered Host Immunity, Human T Lymphotropic Virus Type I Replication, and Risk of Adult T-Cell Leukemia/Lymphoma: A Prospective Analysis from the ATL Cohort Consortium

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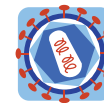
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MEETING ABSTRACT

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Altered host immunity, human T lymphotropic virus type I replication, and risk of adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma: a prospective analysis from the ATL Cohort Consortium

Brenda M Birmann^{1*}, Akihiko Okayama², Norma Kim³, Kokichi Arisawa⁴, Elizabeth C Breen⁵, Anna B F Carneiro-Proietti⁶, Kerstin I Falk⁷, Barrie Hanchard⁸, Manami Inoue⁹, Otoniel Martínez-Maza¹⁰, Edward L Murphy¹¹, Ruth M Pfeiffer¹², Takashi Sawada¹³, Sherri O Stuver¹⁴, Shoichiro Tsugane⁹, Hongchuan Li^{15,16}, Catherine A Suppan¹, Nancy E Mueller¹⁷, Michie Hisada^{12,18}

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Background

Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma (ATL) is a rare and often fatal outcome of infection with human T-lymphotropic virus type I (HTLV-I). Altered host immunity in HTLV-I carriers has been postulated as a risk factor for ATL, but is not well understood.

Methods

We prospectively examined well-validated serologic markers of HTLV-I pathogenesis and host immunity in 53 incident ATL cases and 150 carefully matched asymptomatic HTLV-I carriers from eight population-based studies in Japan, Jamaica, the United States and Brazil. We used multivariable conditional logistic regression, conditioned on the matching factors (cohort/race, age, sex, and sample collection year), to evaluate the biomarkers' associations with ATL in all subjects and by years (≤ 5 , >5) from blood draw to ATL diagnosis.

Results

In the pooled population, above-median soluble interleukin-2-receptor-alpha levels (sIL2R, $v. \leq$ median; odds ratio (OR), 95% confidence interval (CI)=4.08, 1.47-11.29) and anti-Tax seropositivity (anti-Tax; OR, 95% CI=2.97, 1.15-7.67), which indicate T cell activation and

HTLV-I replication, respectively, were independently associated with an increased ATL risk. Above-median total immunoglobulin E levels ($v. \leq$ median; OR, 95% CI=0.45, 0.19-1.06), which indicate type 2 (B cell) activation, predicted a lower ATL risk. The sIL2R and anti-Tax associations with ATL were stronger in samples collected ≤ 5 years pre-diagnosis.

Conclusions

The biomarker profile predictive of ATL risk suggests a role for heightened T cell activation and HTLV-I replication and diminished type 2 immunity in the etiology of ATL in HTLV-I carriers. Translation of these findings to clinical risk prediction or early ATL detection requires further investigation.

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Author details

¹Channing Laboratory, Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, 02115, USA. ²Department of Rheumatology, Infectious Diseases and Laboratory Medicine, University of Miyazaki, Miyazaki, Japan. ³RTI International, Rockville, Maryland, 20852, USA. ⁴Department of Preventive Medicine, Institute of Health Biosciences, Tokushima University, Tokushima, Japan. ⁵Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology, Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, 90095, USA. ⁶Hemominas Foundation, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil. ⁷Department of Preparedness, Swedish Institute for Communicable Disease Control and MTC, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. ⁸Department of Pathology, University of the West Indies, Mona Kingston, Jamaica. ⁹Research Center for Cancer Prevention and

* Correspondence: brenda.birmann@channing.harvard.edu

¹Channing Laboratory, Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, 02115, USA
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

Screening, National Cancer Center, Japan. ¹⁰Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Department of Epidemiology, UCLA School of Public Health, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, 90095, USA. ¹¹Departments of Laboratory Medicine and Epidemiology/Biostatistics, University of California San Francisco and Blood Systems Research Institute, San Francisco, California, 94118, USA. ¹²Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, NIH, DHHS, Bethesda, Maryland, 20892, USA. ¹³Department of Clinical Development, Oncology Product Creation Unit, Eisai Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan. ¹⁴Department of Epidemiology, Boston University School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, 02118, USA. ¹⁵Laboratory of Experimental Immunology, Cancer and Inflammation Program, Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute, NIH, DHHS, Frederick, MD, 21702, USA. ¹⁶Basic Research Program, SAIC-Frederick Inc., National Cancer Institute-Frederick, Frederick MD, 21702, USA. ¹⁷Department of Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, 02115, USA. ¹⁸Current affiliation: Takeda Global Research and Development Center, Inc., Deerfield, Illinois, 60015, USA.

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